

THE FOUNDING ACT

By Jacques Lacan

I found - as alone as I have always been in my relation to the psychoanalytic cause – *L'Ecole Française de Psychanalyse*, of which, for the four coming years in which nothing in the present forbids me to answer for, I will personally assure the direction.

I intend this title to represent the body where a work is to be accomplished – which, in the field Freud has opened up, restores the cutting ploughshare of its truth – which brings the original praxis that he instituted under the name of psychoanalysis back to the duty that that is incumbent on it in our world – which, by an assiduous criticism, exposes the deviations and compromises that deaden its progress by degrading its use.

This work-objective is indissoluble from a formation to be dispensed in this movement of reconquest. That is to say that those that I have formed are fully qualified for it as of right, that all those who can contribute to putting the merits of this formation to the test are invited to do so.

Those who come to this School will commit themselves to fulfilling a task submitted to both internal and external supervision. In exchange they are assured that nothing will be spared so that everything valuable they do will have the repercussions it deserves, and in the appropriate place.

For the execution of the work, we shall adopt the principle of an elaboration supported in a small group. Each of these (we have a name to designate these groups) will be composed of three people at least, of five at most, four is the right measure. PLUS ONE charged with the selection, with the discussion and with the outcome to be reserved to the work of each.

After a certain period of functioning, the elements of a group will be invited to permute into another one.

This office of directing will not constitute a fiefdom in which the service performed might be capitalised on to gain entry to a higher grade, and no one will have to regard himself as demoted by going back to the bottom rung of the work.

For the reason that every personal enterprise will restore its author to the conditions of criticism and supervision to which any work to be undertaken will be submitted in the School.

This in no way implies an inverted hierarchy, but a circular organisation whose functioning, easy to program, will be firmed up with experience.

We are setting up three sections whose running I will ensure with two collaborators seconding me in each.

1) – **SECTION FOR PURE PSYCHOANALYSIS**, in other words praxis and doctrine of psychoanalysis properly speaking, which is and is nothing other – this will be established at the proper time – than didactic analysis.

2) The urgent problems to be posed about all the issues of didactic analysis will find a way to opening up the path through a confrontation maintained between people having experience of didactic analysis and candidates in formation. Its *raison d'être* being based on what there is no reason to conceal: namely, the need resulting from professional exigencies whenever they lead the analyst in formation to take on a responsibility that is in the slightest way analytic.

It is within this problem and as a particular case that there should be situated the one of entering into supervision. A prelude to defining this case on criteria other than the

impression of all and the prejudice of each. For we know that such is its only law currently, when violations of the rule implied in the observance of its forms are rife.

From the outset and in every case qualified supervision will be assured for the practitioner in formation within the framework of our School.

There will be proposed for the study thus established the features whereby I myself break with the formulated standards of didactic practice, as well as the effects imputed to my teaching on the course of my analyses when it is the case that my analysers attend it in the capacity of students. Included therein, if required, will be the only impasses to be remembered from my position in such a School, to wit, those that the very induction my teaching aims at, would engender in its work.

These studies, the point of which is to call into question established routine will be collected by the directors of the section who will look for the most suitable ways to support the effects of their attraction.

Three sub-sections:

- doctrine of pure psychoanalysis,
- internal critique of its praxis as formation,
- supervision of psychoanalysts in formation.

Finally I pose as a principle of doctrine that this section, the first, as moreover the one whose destination I will describe under heading 3, will not limit its recruitment to a medical qualification, pure psychoanalysis not being in itself a therapeutic technique.

3) – **SECTION FOR APPLIED PSYCHOANALYSIS**, which means for therapeutics and clinical medicine.

To it will be admitted medical groups, whether composed of psychoanalysed subjects or not, provided they are capable of contributing to psychoanalytic experience; by the criticism of its indications in its results – by putting to the test the categorical terms and structures that I have introduced as maintaining the true line of Freudian praxis - this in clinical examination, in nosographical definitions, in the very setting up of therapeutic projects.

Here again three subsections

- doctrine of treatment and its variations,
- casuistry,
- psychiatric information and medical explorations.

A group of directors to authenticate each study as the School's, and composed in such a way as to exclude all preconceived conformism.

3) – SECTION FOR REVIEWING THE FREUDIAN FIELD.

This will first of all ensure the reporting and the critical censoring of everything offered in this field by the publications that claim to be authorised in it.

It will undertake the up-dating of the principles from which analytic praxis must receive its status within science. A status which, however particular it must in the be recognised as, cannot be that of an ineffable experience.

Finally it will be a call to investigate our experience as well as to communicate what elements of structuralism established in some sciences, can throw light on those whose function I have demonstrated in our own, – in the opposite direction, what these same sciences can receive as complementary inspiration from our subjectivation.

Ultimately, a praxis of the theory is required, without which the order of affinities delineated by the sciences that we call conjectural will remain at the mercy of this political drift which elevates itself by the illusion of a universal conditioning.

Therefore again three subsections

- ongoing commentary on the psychoanalytic movement,
- articulation with kindred sciences,
- ethics of psychoanalysis, which is the praxis of its theory.

The financial resources constituted initially by the contribution of members of the School, by the subventions it will eventually obtain, indeed the services it will provide as School, will be entirely reserved for its publishing efforts.

In the first instance a directory will assemble the titles and abstract of works of the School, wherever they have appeared, a yearbook in which will figure at their simple request all those who have fulfilled a function in it.

People will join the School by presenting themselves to it in a working group constituted as I have said.

Admission initially will be decided by me without my taking into account positions taken by anyone in the past towards me personally, sure as I am that those who have left me, it is not I who blame them, but they who will blame me all the more for not being able to go back on it.

My response moreover will only concern what I can presume or observe on the basis of titles about the value of the group and the place it initially intends to fill.

The organisation of the School on the rolling principle that I have indicated, will be fixed by the care of a committee approved by at an initial general meeting to be held in a year's time. This committee will elaborate it on the basis of the experience undergone at the end of second year, when a second meeting will have to approve it.

It is not necessary for the membership to cover the entirety of this plan for it to function. I do not need a numerous list, but resolute workers, such as those I know here and now.

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